

7 May 1970

The Honorable Margaret Chase Smith
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter of 27 April 1970 enclosing a copy of a letter of 23 April which you received from [REDACTED] I am glad to have the opportunity to comment on some of [REDACTED] allegations in order to keep the record straight.

[REDACTED] is correct in saying that an Agency representative did indeed meet him in the spring of 1967 (actually on 18 April of that year). However, we have no record of any request from your office that we investigate the "strange accident" to which [REDACTED] refers. An Agency representative met with [REDACTED] on the date in question to discuss allegations against the Agency which he had made in letters to several members of the Senate.

I can assure you that the allegations about the Agency contained in [REDACTED] letter are completely false.

Sincerely,

15/

Richard Helms
Director

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Representative Michael Feighan (D., Ohio)

6 May 1970

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in response to your letter of 23 April 1970 concerning the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As you may know, CIA does not publicly comment on reports concerning its activities, whether true or false, favorable or unfavorable. This policy flows from statutes pertaining to CIA which are spelled out in detail in the informational brochure I am sending you and which I hope you will find of interest.

While the law requires the Director of Central Intelligence to protect "intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure," I can assure you that CIA is subject to scrutiny within both the Executive and Legislative branches. In the Congress four separate subcommittees review CIA's activities and provide it with funds.

With respect to the Green Berets, you may be interested in knowing that Under Secretary of the Army, Thaddeus R. Beal, last year stated in a letter to a member of Congress that the Green Berets "are not subject directly to orders--written or oral--promulgated outside

of the military chain of command." As you may know, CIA is a civilian agency and carries out its functions under the direction of the National Security Council. There is no command relationship whatsoever between CIA and the military forces, which are, of course, under the Department of Defense.

With respect to the Pueblo, you may be interested in knowing that the Pentagon in reply to North Korean Communist propagandists at the time of Commander Bucher's so-called confession in North Korea made it abundantly clear that the CIA was not involved--

"Commander Bucher is a naval officer, commanding a naval ship and performing a naval mission. He is not employed by the Central Intelligence Agency and was promised nothing by the Central Intelligence Agency. Nor were any members of his crew."

With respect to the fiscal accountability of the Agency, I am informed that the Bureau of the Budget exercises its normal functions on fiscal matters concerning the Agency within the Congress. I can assure you that the Appropriations Subcommittees do a most thorough job on its appropriations.

From the above, you can see that CIA is the subject of unfounded charges and that CIA is not autonomous but subject to the closest control within both the Legislative and Executive Branches.

I hope this letter has been responsive to your interests.
Please let me know if I can help you further on this or any other
matter.